1	2	3
32	Multi Disciplinary Training Centre, Patna	825
33	Khadi Gramodyog Vidyalala, Kumarikatta	140
34	Multi Disciplinary Training Centre, Doimukh	249
35	Multi Disciplinary Training Centre, Zemabawk	560
36	Multi Disciplinary Training Centre, Dimapur	445
37	Multi Disciplinary Training Centre, Roha	1427
38	Hand Made Paper Institute, Pune	125

Rising cases of polio

*357. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether rising polio cases continue to depict the country in a poor light as it stands above Pakistan and Afghanistan and next to Nigeria in the total number of polio cases reported worldwide in 2007;

(b) if so, whether Government had asked ICMR to carry out research studies alongwith the State Governments to work out strategy for effectively tackle the rising cases;

(c) if so, whether ICMR has already submitted its report and suggested the strategy for future polio campaigns in the country; and

(d) if so, what are the steps being considered to implement the suggestions made?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) The annual strategy for polio eradication is decided on the basis of the recommendation of the Indian Expert Advisory Group (IEAG) consisting of National experts and International experts from World Health Organization (WHO), United Nation's Children Fund (UNICEF), Centre for Diseases Control (CDC) Atlanta. The IEAG reviews the polio epidemiological situation two times a year and recommend the suitable strategies for the country. The National Polio Surveillance Project (NPSP) of WHO provides technical support for high quality Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) surveillance and assists the Government in microplanning, training and monitoring of polio immunization campaign.

During this year, so far 185 polio cases have been reported in the country, out of which 49 are of Polio Type 1 and 136 are of Polio Type 3. There has been significant decline in the number of cases caused by the most virulent strain of poliovirus type 1 (P 1). The endemic region of western Uttar Pradesh has reported only three type 1 polio cases this year. The core districts of Moradabad and J P Nagar, the epicenter of the outbreak last year, have not had a single case of P 1 for the last 8 months.

The number of cases caused by the other surviving strain of Poliovirus Type 3, (P3) has risen this year to 136, but the circulation is confined to limited geographical area of Western Uttar Pradesh and Udham Singh Nagar district of Uttarakhand . This rise is consistent with the immunization strategy recommended by the IEAG focusing on Polio Type 1 virus through the use of more efficacious monovalent type 1 polio vaccine since April, 2005. The immunization strategy has been focusing on curtailing Polio Type 1 virus and keeping Polio Type 3 virus in check because PI circulates more widely, has been responsible for international spread and has the propensity to cause large outbreaks. Similar trend of rise in Polio Type 3 cases and decline in Polio Type 1 cases is also seen in Nigeria, Pakisthan and Afganistan this year.

The number of polio cases by Type detected in India, Pakistan, Afganistan and Nigeria during this year is enclosed as Statement (*See* below).

(b) to (d) The ICMR is working closely with the Government of Uttar Pradesh and National Polio Surveillance Project to work out strategies for polio eradication in UP. Several rounds of OPV vaccination campaigns have been carried out in UP in 2006 and 2007. Understanding the level of immunity in areas where immunity gaps persisted despite vaccination campaigns is crucial to the success of polio eradication in UP.

Entrovirus Research Centre of ICMR has been closely analyzing the available data in collaboration with NPSP and other experts. ICMR has taken up two studies to evaluate populations immunity (to understand immunity gaps)

(1) determine prevalence of poliovirus antibodies in normal healthy children in Moradabad district and

(2) determine prevalence of poliovirus antibodies in non-polio AFP cases in children up to 5 years in 24 districts in Western UP.

The studies are being funded by the Government of India with logistic support from UP Government and NPSP. ICMR is coordinating the studies and Entrovirus Research Centre (ERC) of ICMR will carry out testing of samples. Results of the study on prevalence of antibodies in normal children in Moradabad district will be available in about 8 months and the result of the second study will be available in about 20 months.

Statement

Details of number of polio cases during the year (2007)

Country	2007 (up to 31st Aug, 07)	
	Polio Type 1 cases	Polio Type 3 cases
India	49	136
Nigeria	50	124
Pakistan	6	6
Afghanistan	4	5